

# Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

*The Commissions work has impacted thousands of students in our city, facilitated to bring nearly \$1 million to the area for work development, prevention and intervention.*

## ***Introduction***

In 2006, the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention was established by the San Diego City Council to develop a strategic collaborative efforts between the various agencies who work with gang related issues.

Members of the Commission are:

Chair, Pastor Harry Cooper (District 4)	Chief of Police William Lansdowne
Gary Gallegos, SANDAG	Terry Grier, ED, Superintendent of City Schools
Chief of Probation Mack Jenkins	Superintendent to County Schools, Randy Ward, ED.
District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis	Sheriff Bill Kolender
Steve Eldred, California Endowment	Rosa Ana Lozada, Harmonium
Kevin Henderson, TKF	Daniel Villarreal, (Sherman Heights)
Pepe Cervantes, (District 6)	Victor Torres (District 7)
Fred Sotelo (District 2)	Chris Yanov (District 8)
Marc Cafferty (Workforce Partnership)	Alicia De Leon Torres (District 1)
Eugene Johnson (District 5)	Scott Silverman (District 3)
Benny Benavidez (Parole)	

Completing its Strategic Action Plan in 2007-08, the Commission implemented many initiatives based on the goals in the Action Plan and has facilitated collaboration and instituted the coordination of services and initiatives in some communities.

.The Mission and Vision of the San Diego Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention are as follows:

### **Mission**

Develop a more strategic, coordinated, and collaborative effort between the City, law enforcement agencies, social service providers, and the general public with the objective of significantly curtailing gang involvement, and its negative impact, in the City of San Diego.

Make recommendations concerning gang prevention, intervention, diversion, and suppression methods; identify local, state, and federal funding sources; and address other gang-related policy matters. (*San Diego Municipal Code Article 6, Division 19*)

### **Vision for 2009**

*Reduce Gang Violence and empower Communities through collaboration with city and county agencies.*

### **Goals for 2009**

- Goal 1** Establish an effective coordinated collaboration process to impact gang activity citywide
- Goal 2** Develop joint partnerships to help address the gang issues within the City of San Diego
- Goal 3** Establish a data and research analysis process to keep the Mayor, City Council and Commission aware of key gang trends and anti-gang research on an ongoing basis
- Goal 4** Identify funding sources for agencies and organizations to apply to build capacity in existing, effective and promising gang prevention and intervention programs/strategies on a neighborhood basis
- Goal 5** Develop a sustainable funding strategy for the Strategic Action plan

1. **INTERVENTION:** In the Spring of 2007, the Commission worked with City Attorney and the State Attorney General in implementing Safe Passage at Montgomery Middle School in Linda Vista as well as Bell Middle School and Morse High School in Southeastern San Diego.

- Ended major gang recruitment around Montgomery
- Supported staff monitoring of gang fights around Gompers
- Have established a core multiagency group working at Morse High School

***Partnering Agencies:***

- City Attorney
- Principal at School
- Probation
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Metropolitan Transit
- School Staff
- School Police

Currently, Commission supports other community efforts:

Jacobs Foundation's Project Safe Way  
San Diego High School's Collaboration  
Mira Mesa High School  
Southbay Community Collaborative with Institute of Policy Solutions

2. **PREVENTION INTERVENTION AND SUPPRESSION:** The Commission received the **\$200,000** two year U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) for the Gang Prevention Coordination Assistance Program. The grant focuses on a target neighborhood and involves the coordinating and collaborating with the following organizations:

Tariq Khamisa Foundation  
CHOICE  
Coalition of Community Councils  
San Diego Police Department  
Strive/Second Chance  
San Diego Probation  
San Diego District Attorney's Office  
San Diego County Probation Department  
San Diego Unified School District  
Metro United Urban Ministry  
San Diego Workforce Partnership  
Second Chance/ Strive  
Union Pacific Asian Communities  
Reality Changers  
Jackie Robinson YMCA  
Encanto Boys and Girls Club  
Consensus Organizing Center  
San Diego County Health and Human  
Services Agency  
Inner City Youth  
Able Disable Advocacy, Inc.  
New Harvest Churches  
FOCIS

Accomplishments to date:

- 4,000 youth have participated in the Tariq Khamisa Foundation's Peace Empowerment Program
- The District Attorney's work with partners established a process for coordinated referrals in the project and assessment of youth
- Violent crimes have decreased by 36% around participating schools working with the Tariq Khamisa Foundation
- Coordinated the first Community Based Organization involvement in a Curfew Sweep – brought in 25 youth, 16 of them were counseled by the Community based organizations with follow up. To date have worked with over 200 youth and have established a Collaborative Truancy Sweep

- Collaborated with Police Department to apply and receive the CALGRIP **grant of \$400,000**
3. **PREVENTION INTERVENTION AND SUPPRESSION:** The Commission received **\$225,000** in January from the California Wellness Foundation to establish similar Anti-gang collaborations in Linda Vista, South Bay and Mira Mesa. Grant includes process evaluation of the program. Project is just moving forward. This will focus on prevention and intervention.
  4. **INTERVENTION:** San Diego Workforce Partnership, Inc (member of the Commission), has funded an employment process that better serves at risk youth after working with the Commission and other community organizations. The project is located at Morse working with the Coalition of Neighborhood Councils and a group of work development organizations. The service components are:
    - Cohort Model
    - Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders
    - Long term services through graduation
    - Year Round and Summer Services
    - Year Round Services
    - School-based and after-school programming would include:
      - Advocate (case manager)
      - Career exploration via internships, career speakers, tours, mentors
      - Employment - self-directed or subsidized
      - Elective Class with cohort (study skills, life skills, violence prevention education)
      - Parent/family intervention and support
  5. Commission has facilitated two community forums and a youth summit:
    - *Community Solutions: Regional/Neighborhood Anti Gang Solutions* (May 10, 2007). The Forum had nearly 400 attendees expressing ideas as to what they felt the City of San Diego needed and should do to impact the youth violence and gang related crime in their communities at the Convention Center. These ideas and concepts are part of the foundation of the Strategic Action Plan.
    - *Community Summit: Collaborations that work* (January 25, 2008). The Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention understands that what works best are collaborations that provide services to communities and include governmental entities in their effort. This Summit, which was co-sponsored by the County's District Attorney's office, engaged organizations in conversations about improving and expanding this effort all across the City of San Diego.
    - *Youth Empowerment Summit* (January 2009). More than 300 youth attended this summit and created a matrix of empowerment suggestions and initiated goals for the Commission.

